

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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P 021530Z MAR 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3912

S E C R E T JIDDA 1584

NODIS

FOR DICKMAN NEA/ARP FROM HORAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SA, US, CVIS

SUBJECT: SAUDIS WOULD REFUSE VISAS TO JEWS IN SAUDI DEFENSE PROJECTS

REF: JIDDA 1570

1. IN ADDITION TO THE STATEMENTS BY PRINCE SA'UD TO SECTREASURY SIMON REPORTED REFTEL, PRINCE ALSO SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA RIGHTFULLY CONSIDERED THAT MOST JEWS WERE ZIONISTS OR WERE VERY FAVORABLY INCLINED TO ISRAEL. BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA WAS VIRTUALLY AT WAR WITH ISRAEL, THE SAG HAD DETERMINED THAT NO RPT NO JEWS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA ON PROJECTS INVOLVING SAUDI ARABIA'S DEFENSE AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENT. SA'UD SAID THAT SAG REALIZED THE EXTENT OF

ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BUT BELIEVED IT NECESSARY NEVERTHELESS TO ADHERE TO SUCH A POLICY.

2. THE PRINCE THEN ASKED SECRETARY HOW WAS IT THAT MR. (MANNAING) SELZER, WHO WORKED AS A LAWYER IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, HAD COME TO SAUDI ARABIA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, AFTER HAVING BEEN EARLIER REFUSED A VISA. JERRY PARSKY EXPLAINED THAT SELZER HAD COME OUT AS PART OF THE SURETY BOND J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION MISSION, AFTER THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENT HAD INDEPENDENTLY DETERMINED THAT HE WAS THE MOST

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CAPABLE MAN FOR THE JOB. PARSKY EMPHASIZED THAT SELZER'S WORK WITH THE

SURETY BOND GROUP HAD NOT BEEN AT ALL MILITARY. HE SAID THE SAG SHOULD KNOW THAT TREASURY WOULD NOT RPT NOT SEND OUT ANYONE WHOM IT WASN'T SURE WOULD WORK SINCERELY FOR BETTER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

3. COMMENT: RE PARA 2, PRINCE SA'UD GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT THE USG HAD PULLED A FAST ONE, BY GETTING SELZER IN THE BACK DOOR AFTER HIS INITIAL DIFFICULTY.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, JEWS, VISA REGULATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA01584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-2098
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603105/aaaadoja.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 JIDDA 1570
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDIS WOULD REFUSE VISAS TO JEWS IN SAUDI DEFENSE PROJECTS
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, SA, US, (SELZER, MANNAING), (SAUD, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006